

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A process of producing a sterile foam for medical or veterinary use, said process comprising the following steps:
  - a) forming a physiologically acceptable foam for application to a body, said foam comprising a foamable gelling agent, and wherein said ~~foam gelling agent~~ gelling agent is treated with a first precipitant which ~~comprises a polyvalent metal ion~~ is calcium citrate, calcium-releasing water-soluble glass, or a combination thereof, and wherein said first precipitant is combined with said gelling agent before or during the foaming of the gelling agent and stabilises the gelling agent;
  - b) allowing the foam thus obtained to cure;
  - c) immersing the cured foam in a bath of a second precipitant which ~~comprises a polyvalent metal ion~~ is calcium citrate, calcium-releasing water-soluble glass, or a combination thereof, to form a treated foam;
  - d) drying the treated foam; and
  - e) sterilising said dried treated foam by exposure to gamma-irradiation or ethylene oxide.
2. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said foamable gelling agent prior to forming the physiologically acceptable foam of step a).
3. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent is alginate, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, carageenan gel, gelatin, a gum, or salt of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
4. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, salts thereof, or mixtures thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said sterile foam further contains a foaming agent.
8. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said foaming agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, or a surfactant.
- 9-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said foamable gelling agent further comprises an organic acid in an amount of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g of gelling agent.
- 12-21. (Cancelled).
22. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said treated foam is washed in a de-ionised water/glycerine mixture prior to drying.
23. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the treated foam is oven dried at temperatures below 100°C.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1, wherein said treated foam is washed.

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26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)